

TECHNICAL TALK

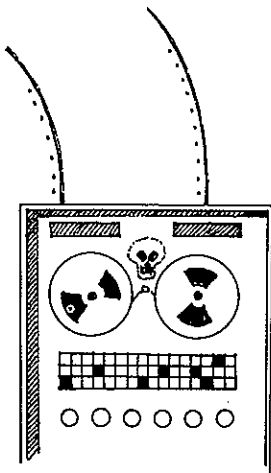
Is an author telling you about a dream world or about the real thing? It is sometimes important to know the difference between the real and fantastic. We can learn a lot by reading fantasy, but we need to be able to separate it from the things that can really happen today.

TRY IT

Here are some famous stories. Read the descriptions and mark each one to show whether it could happen or not.

FAMOUS FANTASY

1. ☐ Could happen *Gulliver's Travels* by Jonathan Swift
☐ Fantasy A man named Gulliver goes to a foreign country. He goes to sleep on a seashore and wakes up with little people all around him. They have used little strings and stakes to tie him to the ground. He can't move.
2. ☐ Could happen *Alice in Wonderland* by Lewis Carroll
☐ Fantasy Alice goes on a picnic. After lunch she meets a rabbit with a watch. He is very late for a meeting. Alice falls down a rabbit hole and has an adventure of the strangest kind.
3. ☐ Could happen *2001: A Space Odyssey* by Arthur C. Clarke
☐ Fantasy A scientist leaves for the moon and finds a strange machine buried there. Later an astronaut fights with the computer on his spaceship. The computer has already killed all the people on the ship except him.
4. ☐ Could happen *Animal Farm* by George Orwell
☐ Fantasy A group of animals on a farm are ruled for a time by a pig who is a dictator.
5. ☐ Could happen *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea* by Jules Verne
☐ Fantasy A white-hot energy source drives a submarine through the sea for thousands of miles. The crew eats only sea animals and plants it gathers from fields on the ocean floor.



REVIEW

UNIT 4 Lesson 2 Critical Reading

All the books listed in lesson 1 are famous fantasies. Each one has had some effect on what people think or feel about their lives and times. Fantasy is important to us. Authors can use it to help us understand our real lives better.

For each paragraph below, mark whether you think it comes from a real setting or a fantasy.

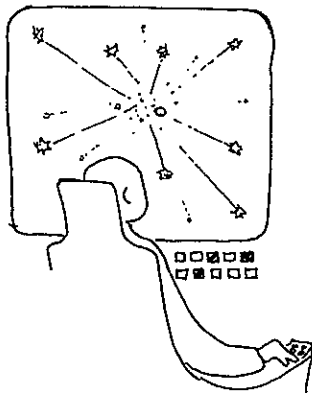
LIGHT AND DARK

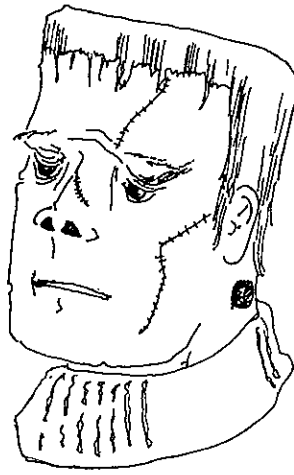
The screen glowed with stars. They started way out there as pinpoints of light and then grew bigger and bigger until they flashed off the screen on one side or the other. The ship hummed quietly even though it was moving at more than ten times the speed of light. The captain sat in his chair waiting for a call from the last outpost in space. The colony on the planet Zantar had been silent too long.

1. ☐ Real 2. ☐ Fantasy

There were no lights. It was strange. There was not a single light anywhere, but he knew there were men all around him. He could hear the bump of guns going off miles away. Once in a while he heard someone whisper or sensed the movement of a rifle as it bumped almost silently against another piece of equipment. But most of all he was aware of the absolute, eternal darkness.

1. ☐ Real 2. ☐ Fantasy





THREE STRANGE ONES

Here are descriptions of three characters in famous stories. See if you can tell by reading about each one whether he or she comes from a real or fantasy setting.

He was mixed up at first. He tried to move, but he couldn't. Chains held his arms and legs. Somehow he knew he was different than before. He could tell he was in a castle and there was equipment all around him. Most of it was electrical machinery he had never seen before. There were wires leading to buttons that were fixed to his neck. By turning his head just a little he could see part of the name on one of the machines. The letters were F-R-A-N-K-E-N-S-T-

1. ☐ Real 2. ☐ Fantasy

She opened the door just a crack to look in. What a strange appearance her grandmother had. She was lying in bed with the covers pulled up to her chin. She was wearing her glasses as usual, and she had that funny old sleeping cap on her head. But she seemed gray, and her nose was so long and strange. Her grandmother was awake, so she decided to go right in. She took off her red cape, picked up the picnic basket, and pushed open the door. Then grandmother smiled, revealing huge teeth she had never had before.

1. ☐ Real 2. ☐ Fantasy

He watched the lightning rip across the sky. At every flash he could see the string leading into the sky. The kite pulled violently against the silk line he held. He knew he was right. Electricity and lightning had to be the same thing. If he were right the sparks would run down the string. Electricity would get to the key, and jump to the jar. Then a sudden flash and bang lit up everything as lightning flashed near the kite. Ben watched the blue sparks jump from the key. He was right!

1. ☐ Real 2. ☐ Fantasy

HOW DID YOU DO?

